

221st BSB – Wiesbaden, Wackernheim, Dexheim



Photo by Cassandra Kardeke

Santa Claus steps out of an airplane upon arriving at the 1st Military Intelligence Battalion Christmas party at Wiesbaden Army Airfield.



Photo by Karen Edge

Youths color snowman door hangers provided by the Dexheim Kontakt Club during the Dexheim tree lighting ceremony Dec. 9.

Christmas cheer throughout the BSB

By Cassandra Kardeke
221st Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

*'Twas the month before Christmas and all through the base,
Soldiers and families prepared for holidays.
Stockings were hung on the radiators with care,
In hopes that St. Nicholas would soon be there.
Angel trees were trimmed,
As donated gifts poured in.
Midnight Madness was a shopper's delight,
Shopping at AAFES in the middle of the night.
Santa's arrival at tree lightings gave joy
To every little girl and boy.
Helping hands came together
Making this Christmas season a little bit better.
Happy holidays to you and yours,
from the 221st Base Support Battalion.*



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Photo by Karen Edge

Youths from Dexheim Youth Services sing carols before the tree lighting ceremony at Dexheim Anderson Barracks Dec. 9.



Photo by Karen Edge

An elderly man hangs an ornament on the tree in a German care facility in Oppenheim. Photo left: A youth from Dexheim's Youth Services program helps an elderly woman decorate the tree. Each year children from Dexheim visit the Besuch im Altzentrum (elderly care facility) to bring a little bit of Christmas cheer. As the youths sang Christmas carols, several of the German-speaking audience members chimed in and sang along in English. The smiles shared between the generations needed no translation. Tears rolled down many cheeks as the children opened their hearts and shared holiday cheer with those who may need it most, who seldom receive visitors and spend many lonely nights reminiscing about Christmases past with loved ones long since gone.



Photo by Cassandra Kardeke
Third-grade students, Christopher James and Ashton Clements double-check prices and their cash on hand at the Santa Shop in Hainerberg Elementary School. Each year the school's Parent Teacher Organization purchases items throughout Europe to offer to students their own means of Christmas shopping.



Photo by Karen Edge



Photo by Cassandra Kardeke

Mattie Lucius holds up four fingers to let Santa know how old she is this year while filling him in on her Christmas wish list during a Christmas party at Wiesbaden Army Airfield.

Photo left: Alisha N. Harris places a Christmas card for her mother in an envelope after making it at the Dexheim Kontakt Club's craft table after the Dexheim tree lighting.

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A sincere thank you

Thanks to support and donations from around the community, 189 families and more than 400 children benefited from the 221st Base Support Battalion Holiday Assistance Program. Thanks go to:

Tech. Sgt. Clemente De Larosa Jr.

Divine Prince Lodge 85

James T. Dorsey Lodge 114

Leon Duncan

German American Women's Club

Hainerberg CDC 2

Kay D. Hollis

Roland Schott Chapter 116 (Masons)

John E. Wallace Chapter 116 (Masons)

Watch on the Rhein, VFW 27

WEBCO Industries

Wiesbaden Army Airfield Dining Facility

Community news notes

New Year's parties

Ring in the new year at one of the many parties throughout the community. Wiesbaden Community Activity Center's New Year's Eve party boasts hot appetizers, karaoke, a DJ and champagne toast at midnight. For tickets in advance call mil 337-5750 or civ (0611) 705-5750. Both the Electra Lounge and McCully Club's parties begin at 5 p.m. and end at 2 a.m. with free music and entertainment and a complimentary continental breakfast from midnight to 1 a.m. For more information on the Electra Lounge call civ (0611) 816-2995 or (06132) 508747.

Flea market

The Community Activity Center hosts a monthly indoor flea market Jan. 22. Doors open at 8 a.m. For more information call mil 337-5750 or civ (0611) 705-5750.

Gaming fun

Beginning Jan. 6 the Community Activity Center hosts game night every Thursday at 5 p.m. If you enjoy playing board games such as Monopoly, Yahtzee, Tabu, Pictionary, Battleship, Scrabble, Risk and others, then Thursday is your night. Bring a friend or challenge others.

AFTB training

Instructor training for Army Family Team Building will be held Jan. 10-11 from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Jan. 12 from 8:30-11:30 a.m. in Room 22 at Army Community Service. No prior AFTB training is required. Lunch and snacks are included. To sign up call mil 337-5943 or civ (0611) 705-5943.

Teen mystery night

The Wiesbaden Community Library hosts an interactive mystery night for teenage youth Jan. 7 at 5

p.m. "Rock and Roll Over Dead" encourages youth to investigate a crime scene and carefully examine clues to solve the crime. Participation is limited. Call mil 337-1740 or civ (0611) 705-1740 for more information.

Leader training

A Family Readiness Group basic leader training will be held Jan. 20 from 10 a.m. to noon in Room 22 at Army Community Service in Hainerberg Housing. Reservations must be made in advance. Call mil 337-5034 or civ (0611) 705-5034.

Scholarships available

The Wiesbaden Community Spouses Club offers scholarships to high school seniors and continuing education students. For more information call civ (06134) 555 615.

The Army Emergency Relief program offers the Maj. Gen. James Ursano scholarship fund for dependent children of U.S. Army Soldiers. Applications can be downloaded at www.aerhq.org and must be submitted by March 1. For more information call mil 334-5578.



Late night shopping spree Dec. 23

Dalia Lettieri smiles as her total purchase is displayed at the register of the Power Zone in Mainz-Kastel. Saving over \$200, Lettieri and hundreds of other shoppers took advantage of the "Midnight Madness" sale Dec. 4. Because of the sale's success, Army and Air Force Exchange Service officials will hold another "Midnight Madness" sale Dec. 23. All AAFES stores will be open from 9 p.m. to midnight.

Photo by Cassandra Kardeke

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By Cassandra Kardeke

Community cleanup

Spc. Kelly Johnson and her husband, Randy, rake and pick up leaves in front of their quarters in Hainerberg Housing during the community-wide Fall Cleanup Dec. 6-10. Sponsored twice a year, residents work together to clean up around their quarters and common areas.

Community news notes

Ski trips

Wiesbaden and Dexheim Outdoor Recreation centers offer several skiing packages throughout the month of January. Jan. 8, 15 and 29 – skiing in Feldberg, Black Forest; Jan. 14-16 skiing in Austria; Jan. 22 – skiing in Engelberg, Switzerland; Jan. 22-23 skiing in Feldberg.

Auditions

The Amelia Earhart Playhouse holds auditions for its production of the thriller, “The Passion of

Dracula,” Jan. 5-6 from 7-10 p.m. Seven men and two women are needed. No previous acting experience is needed. For more information call mil 336-2473 or civ (0611) 816-2473.

Honoring MLK

In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the **Rheinlander Club** at Anderson Barracks serves a lunch special from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Jan. 12. Reservations are required for parties of 10 or more. Call mil 334-

5712 or civ (06133) 69 712. The **McCully Club** hosts a southern-style soul food lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Jan. 13. The **Kastel Klub** offers free food, music and prizes during its celebration Jan. 14 from 7 p.m. to midnight.

Specialized fitness classes

The Tony Bass Fitness Center offers a variety of specialized classes. The Special Populations Class is held Monday, Wednesday and Friday for those with health problems, the elderly, people suffering from previous injury or who are overweight. The class begins Jan. 7 and costs \$125. The Kid Fit program returns every Tuesday beginning Jan. 11 for children age 2-3 years old. Cost is \$45. Youth Strength and Speed conditioning, for children over age 8, is available for \$125 for five individual sessions or \$15 per session. For more information or to register call mil 337-5943 or civ (0611) 705-5943.

Baby boot camp

The Tony Bass Fitness Center now offers boot camp for new mothers trying to get back into shape. Babies can come along too, but must be secured in a stroller. Bootcamp begins Jan. 11 from 10:30-11:30 a.m. every Tuesday and Thursday. Call mil 337-5943 or civ (0611) 705-5943 to register.

Marathon school

Join Team 221st Sports and Fitness and prepare for the next big race. The Tony Bass Fitness Center at Wiesbaden Army Airfield hosts marathon training which includes instructor-led runs, books, nutrition and sports medicine classes as well as meetings five days a week. Tuition is \$400 and includes entrance fees for a 5K, 10K and the Gutenberg Marathon in Mainz May 8. The class is open to all U.S. ID card holders age 16 and over. For more information call mil 337-5943 or civ (0611) 705-5943.

Positions open

The Wiesbaden branch of Bank of America is seeking a part-time customer service representative. Banking experience isn't required, but is a plus. Call mil 337-6008 or civ (0611) 705-6008 for more information.

The American Arms Hotel is hiring front desk clerks and custodial workers. Applicants must be U.S. citizens and can apply at the Nonappropriated Fund Personnel Office in Building 1020 at Wiesbaden Army Airfield. For more information call mil 338-7883 or civ (0611) 343 667.

222nd BSB — Baumholder, Neubrücke, Strassburg

Happenings

Plan your fun

Plan your free time now and experience Europe with Baumholder's Outdoor Recreation Center. The following trips are offered throughout Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Poland and Holland:

Jan. 8, 4 a.m. to 11 p.m., Black Forest ski trip to the Feldberg, \$65

Jan. 14-17, 11 p.m. to 10 p.m., ski weekend to Gastein, Austria, \$315

Jan. 15, 3 a.m. to midnight, Paris Express, \$85

Jan. 21-23, skiing in Interlaken, Switzerland, \$125

Jan. 29-30, 5-10 p.m., Garmisch ski weekend, \$195

Feb. 5, 4 a.m. to 11 p.m., Black Forest ski trip to the Feldberg, \$65

Feb. 11-14, 10 p.m. to 10 p.m., ski weekend in Gastein, Austria, \$415

Feb. 12, 3 a.m. to midnight, Amsterdam, the Netherlands, \$85

Feb. 19, 4 a.m. to 11 p.m., Black Forest ski trip to the Feldberg, \$65

Feb. 25-27, 5 p.m. to 10 p.m., ski weekend to Interlaken, Switzerland, \$125

March 4-6, 5 p.m. to 10 p.m., Garmisch ski weekend, \$195

March 11-13, 5 p.m. to 10 p.m., ski weekend to Interlaken, Switzerland, \$125

March 17-20, 10 p.m. to 10 p.m., ski weekend to Gastein, Austria, \$315

March 26, 4 a.m. to 11 p.m., Black Forest ski trip to the Feldberg, \$65

April 16, 3 a.m. to midnight, Keukenhof Tulip Gardens, the Netherlands, \$85

Volunteers wanted

Youth Services seeks volunteers — youths and adults — to assist with special interest clubs and sporting or recreational events. For more information contact your local youth center or visit Baumholder's youth website at www.baumholder.army.mil/youthsite/html/ys.htm.

Professional help

Professional counselors are available to provide support and guidance. If you are dealing with conflict, worry, or difficulty, in or outside the home, talk to someone about it. Confidential family/life coaches can meet with you, when and where you are most comfortable. Call Army Community Service at mil 485-8188 or civ (06783) 6-8188 to schedule a meeting.

Home games

All of the men games begin at 1 p.m. and are at the Hall of Champions. The following games are sched-

uled:

Jan. 29, Baumholder versus Kaiserslautern

Feb. 19, Baumholder versus Heidelberg Generals.

Sports lineup

Feb. 7-21 — 222nd Base Support Battalion Intramural Basketball Championship at the Hall of Champions

Feb. 25-27 — 104th Area Support Group intramural basketball championship at Giessen

March 3-6 — Installation Management Agency-Europe intramural basketball playoffs at Würzburg

Through Jan. 3 — Holiday Sports Activities (3x3 basketball, amateur racquetball tournament, etc.) at the Hall of Champions and Gym2.

Italian speaker

The Baumholder Education Center is looking for an individual to teach Conversational Italian. A native speaker is preferred. Call Bill Badger at mil 485-8891 if qualified.

Learn the lingo

Baumholder's Adult Education Program offers Conversational German I, Conversational German II, Conversational Italian and English as a Second Language beginning Jan. 17. Register now with \$40 cash. Call Bill Badger at mil 485-8891 for more information.

University of Maryland registration

The University of Maryland is currently registering for the upcoming college term at Baumholder. A variety of courses are being offered at the freshman, sophomore, junior and senior levels. Call Deirdre Martin or Stacie Welsh at mil 485-6178 for more information.

Learn the law or take auto class

Central Texas College is holding registration for Ethics in Criminal Justice and Automotive Electrical Systems. Call Kristen Hannigan at mil 485-6664 for more information.

eArmyU here

The Electronic Army University (eArmyU) is now available to active duty Soldiers at Baumholder. Briefings on the program are at the Baumholder Education Center each Thursday at 3:30 p.m. Call mil 485-6487 for more information.



Photo by Nancy Green

Neubrücke Elementary School students prepare a flower bed to plant tulips as part of an international science project.

Students take on science project

By Nancy Green
Neubrücke Elementary School teacher

Neubrücke Elementary School is one of the test sites for an international science project that monitors signs of spring throughout North America (and a few sites in Europe).

Hundreds of schools in the United States and Canada, and three or four in Europe, are planting tulips to scientific specifications, then regularly observing and reporting their observations to the database.

The site sends weekly challenge

questions to help the young scientists think about the trends and findings (for instance, asking them to speculate and predict what effect the unusual weather in Texas or New York will have on the tulips). Individual students, or entire classes, can ponder the answers to these questions, can respond online, and can read what other students and classes have said.

For the past several weeks, fifth-graders have been working on the problem of finding a place that best represents the Neubrücke climate, doing the math to figure out how

long the tulip beds will need to be and planning where they can plant so they will be safe from being stepped on.

The students decided to plant two test gardens, one near the teachers' room, and one near the basketball court. They also decided to plant a beautification garden in the courtyard near the library which is being dedicated to a sixth-grader who passed away.

The fifth-graders measured and dug trenches and then helped every student in the school plant a tulip bulb.



Photo by LeAnne MacAllister

Christmas spirit

Smith Elementary School students get into the holiday spirit by singing Christmas carols outside the 222nd BSB Headquarters. Students also made Christmas donations to the Fisher House in Landstuhl.

MLRS unit returns with new mission

By LeAnne MacAllister
222nd Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

The 1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery, returned to lighten up the sky over Strassburg and Baumholder Nov. 30.

For the first time since spring of 2003 1-94th Soldiers qualified locally on Multiple Launch Rocket Systems.

Maj. John Frisbie, battalion safety officer, explained the cur-

rent mission as a process of retrain- ing the batteries on MLRS for com- bat missions.

“The crews have been trained and certified. Now we’re qualifying them. The difference today versus training is that they will actually fire the rockets,” Frisbie said. “All the training is gated, we had to go through steps to get here today.”

The qualification process for the three-person MLRS teams trains the entire battery, said Lt. Col. Hogan, 1-94th commander. “Sce-

narios have been created for the qualification. The batteries are ex- ercising mission analysis so we’re in full effect training for everyone. These are our baby steps towards long term rocket preparation.”

Digital operations systems are used to assess fire locations and trajectory of the rockets. Once the preparation work is done, the crews await their mission. The section chief, driver and gunner have four minutes to move from their hiding spot and launch the rocket.

There are three potential types

of missions — “at my command,” “when-ready” (within the four minute constraint) and “TOT” (Time On Target. To qualify the crew must successfully perform all three types of missions, said unit members.

According to Frisbie, 1-94th FA’s mission continues to evolve as modern warfare evolves. Histori- cally MLRS has been used to shape the battlefield. “We would change a force by taking out their head- quarters and turning them into a bunch of tanks driving around aim- lessly,” said Frisbie.

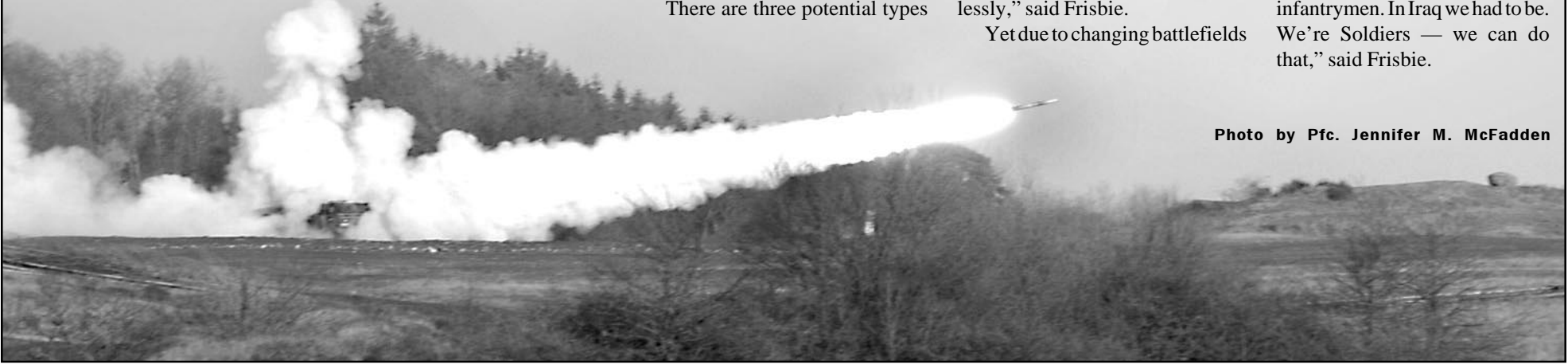
Yet due to changing battlefields

— such as the war in Iraq where pockets of insurgents were the enemy — 1-94th has revised its mission. In order to be relevant in the battle today, they now in- clude full-spectrum operations, Frisbie said.

Launchers can also operate independently with their own survey and aiming capabilities. This allows field artillery Soldiers to work as infantry Soldiers when needed.

“We are both artillerymen and infantrymen. In Iraq we had to be. We’re Soldiers — we can do that,” said Frisbie.

Photo by Pfc. Jennifer M. McFadden



Communities join to celebrate occasion

By LeAnne MacAllister
222nd Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

Although their families may have had the opportunity to enjoy Christmas in Europe a year ago, many Soldiers are experiencing their first holiday season in Germany. With a long list of options and families gathered together for the city's finest mug of Glühwein, Americans and Germans are spending the holidays as a unified community.

Baumholder residents have spread out across Germany to find treasures at various holiday celebrations. Col. Michael Tucker, 1st Armored Division assistant commander for maneuvers, Lt. Col. James Larsen, 222nd Base Support Battalion commander, and their wives were invited by Berg Langenbach's mayor to attend their Christmas market's seasonal kickoff.

On Dec. 1 more than 100 German guests joined the Baumholder military community at the Rheinlander convention center for the annual tree lighting ceremony.

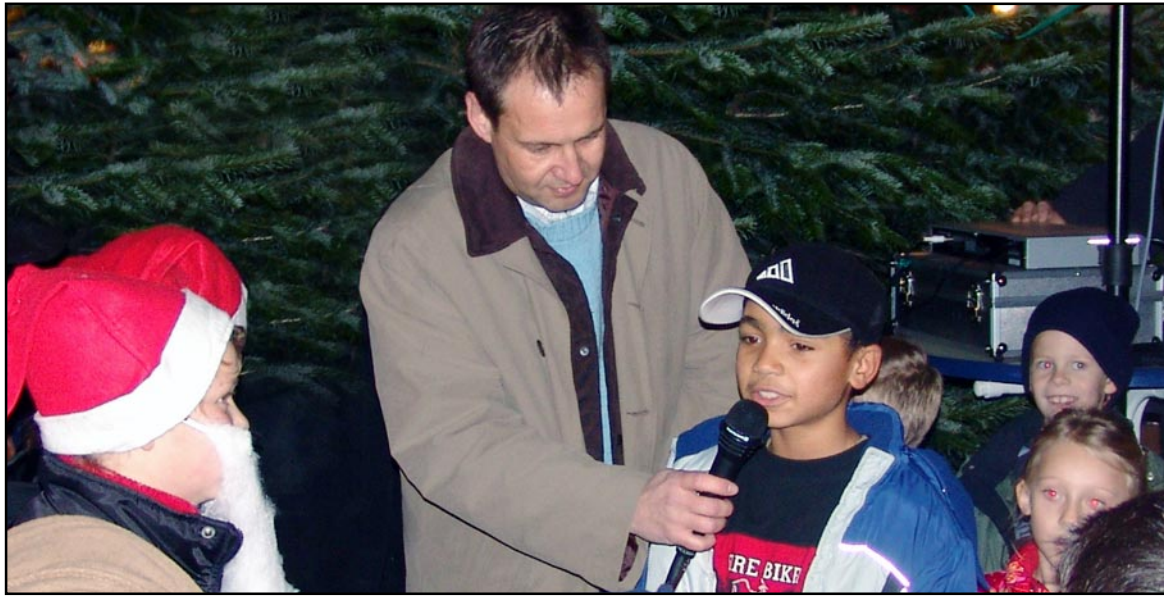


Photo by LeAnne MacAllister

Baumholder Mayor Peter Lang holds the microphone in place as an American child reads his part from "Twas the Night Before Christmas." German and American school children performed for the crowd gathered at the Baumholder Christmas market opening ceremony on Dec. 3.

Americans headed downtown for festivities Dec. 3 as the city of Baumholder lit its tree in conjunction with the annual Christmas market opening ceremony. Mayor Peter Lang welcomed guests in both languages. German children sang

carols including "Oh Tannenbaum," and American children performed Clement Clarke Moore's classic poem "Twas the Night Before Christmas."

The Baumholder Community Spouses' Club was invited by the

city to set up shop in the central marketplace selling cider and pies alongside German vendors selling bratwurst. It was the first time Americans offered their own specialties at the Baumholder Christmas market.

Later that weekend representatives from various branches of the German armed forces and German community members danced the night away at the 1st Armored Division 2nd Brigade winter ball Dec. 4.

The city of Baumholder sponsored the 1st Armored Division Band concert held at the Brühlhalle downtown Dec. 11. The hall was packed with about 500 German and American guests. Everyone in the room sang along to classics such as "Jingle Bells," and Americans were treated to Baumholder residents singing along to German classics.

As a special treat and glimpse into American culture, the band played a Christmas medley and translated "Twas the Night Before Christmas" into German.

Winter balls to tree lightings, Christmas markets to concerts, the German and American communities of Baumholder continually come together to make this holiday season a special one.

In the spirit of the season, friendships and partnerships are strengthened, officials said.

Tree lighting ushers in holiday season

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

222nd Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

The annual Christmas tree lighting always ushers in the holiday season at Baumholder, but this year it was an extra special tree lighting — Soldiers of the 1st Armored Division were home and able to celebrate the holidays with their families and friends.

Special occasion

Elizabeth Bailey, who has been volunteering her singing talents for the past three years, summed up the spirit of the evening when she said, "I've been performing at this event for three years now, but this year is the first time my husband has been here to listen to me sing."

American families and German guests who braved the chilly

weather and turned out to witness the tree lighting received an extra treat this year when 12-year-old Jenny Lawson, daughter of Lt. Col. Jeffrey A. Lawson, Baumholder clinic commander, performed her version of "Santa Claus Is Coming To Town." Jenny was recently recognized Europe wide when she earned Best In show at the U.S. Army in Europe Stars of Tomorrow Talent Competition, held at Hohenfels in November. Jenny's mother, Kathy Lawson, relieved her daughter briefly to sing a holiday favorite, "Let It Snow," from the steps of the Rheinlander Club.

Jenny followed her mother's performance and stepped up to entertain the crowd with the all time Christmas favorite "Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer."

It was then Bailey's turn to present a musical treat to the more

than 200 community members who had gathered for the ceremony. Accompanying her for her opening number, "Do You Hear What I Hear?" was her son, Earnest "Jay." She closed with a song she sings every year at Christmas for the Baumholder community, "Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas," which she dedicated to her husband, 1st. Sgt. Jerry Bailey, Company C, 40th Engineer Battalion.

Evening's highlight

It was then time for the evening's highlight, the actual tree lighting. Assisting Lt. Col. James Larsen, 222nd Base Support Battalion commander, in throwing the switch that illuminated the 30-foot Christmas tree were Kevin Williams from Wetzel Elementary School, Rena Sanchez from Nuebrücke Elementary School and Jennifer Palmer from Smith Elementary School.

The tree was planted specifically for these ceremonies about four years ago at the request of Lt. Col. Eric Wagenaar, then commander of the 222nd BSB.

The twilight sky came alive with light when Larson and the three children pulled the four-foot-high electrical switch richly adorned with Christmas decorations, igniting the more than 350 lights that Baumholder's Directorate of Public Works placed on the tree. But the evening was not over yet. Santa Claus was on his way, and anticipation of his arrival began to mount.

While the children eagerly waited for the jolly red elf to arrive, the Baumholder Girl Scouts ignored the light drizzle that had begun to fall and gathered in front of the Rheinlander to entertain the crowd with several holiday tunes.

As the Girl Scouts finished their

last song, the sound of sleigh bells started to echo in the distance, signaling that Santa was about to make his entrance. And what an entrance it was.

The roly-poly, old, red guy arrived in a stately coach, drawn by two strong horses, their warm breath mixing with the chilly air as they tossed their heads and pulled the North Pole native closer to the children who were brimming with excitement.

A coachman dressed in a gray suit and top hat was at the reins, his appearance reminiscent of a Charles Dickens character.

Santa waved cheerfully to the crowd as he climbed off the coach and made his way into the Rheinlander, where he held court with the many children who waited in line for a chance to let him know what they wanted for Christmas.



Photos by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Jenny Lawson entertains the Girl Scouts and other guests during the annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony.



Santa Claus makes his appearance at the Christmas tree lighting ceremony in a coach complete with coachman and elf.